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AMMAN, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27 — RABIE AWAL 30, 1399

Kaddoumi arrives for dialogue

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (Agencies)—Mr. Farouk Al Kaddoumi, Head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Political Department, arrives here tomorrow for a visit at the invitation of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim. Foreign Ministry sources said here today. Reporting this, the Jordan News Agency (JNA) said Mr. Kaddoumi "will hold talks with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and meet a number of Jordanian officials." PLO sources in Amman said Mr. Kaddoumi leads a delegation including Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), a member of the PLO Central Committee and Brig. Abdul Razzak Yehia, Deputy Head of the PLO's Political Department and former commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA). The Palestinian sources said talks between the two sides will deal with Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the situation in the area. The talks would also resume dialogue between Jordan and the PLO, the sources added.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Comoros readmitted into OAU

Feb. 26 (R)—The Comoros Islands have been readmitted to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meetings after a year because the then government was brought to power by mercenaries. OAU Spokesman Peter Dnu told reporters the decision was taken at the OAU ministerial meeting because of "the present reality in the islands." Comoros said the readmission was a victory for states for following the widespread African condemnation of the coup in which Socialist Leader Ali Soilih was deposed, 50, later left the islands. Last December the OAU decided to elect a new 39-member federal assembly in the Comoros and provide for a full return to democracy.

Number 992

Mid signs of fresh obstacles

Khalil, Dayan report

Camp David talks

26 (R)—Amid signs of fresh obstacles in the way of peace efforts, Egypt would give careful consideration to President Carter's new Camp David peace proposal.

News Agency (MENA) quoted U.S. sources close to the Camp David talks as saying a decision still had to be made on "Three or four points."

MENA quoted the sources as saying delegates had gone a considerable way in formulating what it said were eight documents, including some maps. No further details were given.

The influential newspaper Al Gomhouna said Dr. Khalil's consultations in Cairo would deal in particular with the wording of a letter to be exchanged by Egypt and Israel. This would resolve the problem of the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip and the establishment of Palestinian autonomy there.

But there was still no official explanation in Cairo on why Egypt would be represented at the proposed new summit by Dr. Khalil and not by President Sadat.

Foreign Ministry sources pointed out that Dr. Khalil has been Egyptian chief negotiator since Mr. Vance's trip to the region last December and has been fully involved in the peace talks.

As prime minister, he also ranks on the same level as Mr. Begin, they noted.

The sources said President Sadat would like his prime minister to conclude the talks and would be ready to sign the peace treaty himself once agreement was reached.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dayan returned to Tel Aviv today and said there were still differences to be settled between Israel and Egypt.

He told reporters that the negotiations had not reached any conclusions.

He said President Carter had suggested the higher level meeting "in order to bridge over the gaps which still exist."

The fact that President Carter has invited Mr. Khalil to attend the summit rather than President Sadat has irritated many Israeli officials.

But Mr. Dayan said tonight: "We have been informed that President Sadat had authorised his prime minister not only to negotiate but also to make all the necessary decisions."

"President Sadat himself will participate in the ceremony at which an agreement will be signed—if we reach an agreement."

The foreign minister will tomorrow report to the cabinet and a decision on whether to accept Mr. Carter's invitation will be taken then.

Official Israeli sources reported disquiet among several ministers about the likely contents of Dayan's report.

The absence of President Sadat from the invitation gave immediate rise to suspicion among many Israeli officials that the United States and Egypt had already agreed on new peace proposals and that Prime Minister Menachem Begin's presence was required at Camp David to approve decisions painful for the Israelis.

The English-language Jerusalem Post reported that Israeli negotiators had concluded President Carter wanted to put pressure on Mr. Begin for concessions not forthcoming from Mr. Dayan.

Queen Noor becomes mother in September

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (Agencies)—Her Majesty Queen Noor is expecting her first child next September, the Royal Family's physician announced tonight. The Royal Hushemite Court, meanwhile, issued a statement in which it congratulated the Royal couple on the happy event. King Hussein, born in 1935 and Queen Noor, 27, were married last June.



Vietnam reports heavy fighting, China says it captured key town

BANGKOK, Feb. 26 (R)—Vietnam said today that Chinese troops had thrust up to 40 kilometres into its territory, but said it was still inflicting severe casualties on the Chinese in heavy fighting.

Hanoi Radio did not name the points of deepest penetration, but said the Chinese had committed five army corps of 25 divisions to the battle front.

The radio, which reported heavy fighting near its north-western provincial capital of Lao Cai, also quoted foreign sources as saying the Chinese had moved up seven army corps close to the border "in preparation for an intensification of the war."

In Peking, Senior Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping was quoted as saying that China hoped the fighting would not last as long as the 33-day Sino-Indian border war of 1962.

But he was also quoted as saying that the length of the conflict with Vietnam—now in its 10th day—would depend on Hanoi's future actions.

The Vietnamese battle reports broadcast by Radio Hanoi said 1,400 Chinese troops had been put out of action near Lao Cai over the weekend.

The radio said 2,300 Chinese troops had been killed or wounded this weekend in fighting in three of its seven provinces bordering China, bringing the total number of reported Chinese casualties during the fighting to more than 18,000.

Vietnam has given no casualty figures for its own forces.

In Moscow, the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia said China was preparing to invade Laos in conjunction with its move into Vietnam.

The paper's correspondent in Hanoi quoted reports reaching the Vietnamese capital as saying Chinese divisions were concentrating their attacks on the Laos-Vietnam border and sending secret agents into northern Laos to create disorder. Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said the Chinese were "doomed to failure" in their conflict with Vietnam and repeated his warning to Chinese leaders to "stop before it is too late. I repeat these words, before it is too late."

Meanwhile, the New China News Agency said today Chinese troops captured the key Vietnamese border town of Dong Dang after winning a major battle against an elite Vietnamese regiment called "The Flying Tiger".

A Chinese battalion overran five hilltop positions overlooking the town after a day of intense fighting and wiped out 355 Vietnamese troops before seizing Dong Dang, the agency said.

In one of the most detailed official Chinese battle reports since Peking sent troops pouring across the Vietnamese border nine days ago, the agency did not say when the battle took place.

NCA did not give any Chinese casualty figures in its first report of a major battle involving Vietnamese regular troops.

Intelligence sources in Tokyo and Bangkok have said a major battle seems to be shaping up near the provincial capital.

In Peking, Vice-Premier Deng was quoted by Japanese journalists as saying again that the action against Vietnam was of a limited nature.

He also said China agreed with the proposal made by several countries that Vietnam should withdraw its forces from Kampuchea and that China should pull out of Vietnam.

But he added that China was not making its actions in Vietnam conditional on this, the journalists reported.

At the United Nations, Western and non-aligned members of the Security Council were reported working on a compromise resolution which would call for a ceasefire and withdrawal of all foreign forces—without naming names.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press", Mr. Schlesinger said the security of the Gulf states was vital to the United States.

"The United States must move in such a way that it protects those interests, even if that involves the use of military strength or of military presence," he said.

"The United States has substantial influence in the area and we should seek to maintain that influence because it is in our vital interests to do so," Mr. Schlesinger declared.

He added that military options were being considered by the administration but declined to give details.

Mr. Brown, appearing on the CBS "Face the Nation" programme, said the United States might use force, if needed, to protect its oil supplies from the Gulf area.

Asked whether the United States would go so far to protect Saudi Arabian oilfields which supply 20 per cent of U.S. oil imports, he replied: "Protection of the oil flow from the Middle East is clearly an area of vital interests. In protection of those vital interests we will take any action that is appropriate including military force."

Mr. Brown added that the Ayatollah Khomeini's government in Iran did not seem eager to form alliances with any major power.

The statements by the two officials appeared to reflect growing U.S. concern about the turmoil in Iran.

Palestinian leader warns 'Israeli' attack imminent

By Fernando Francis and Nasr Najafi
Special to the Jordan Times

TEHRAN, Feb. 26 (J.T.)—A leading Palestinian official today warned against an Israeli attack against Jordan, Syria and South Lebanon.

He said the United States will now try to render (the) Camp David (Middle East peace talks between Egypt and Israel) successful by making Israel launch an attack against Jordan, Syria and South Lebanon in order to create a new situation that will counter the situation created by the Iranian revolution.

Mr. Hami Al Hassan, Palestine Liberation Organisation representative to the Islamic Revolution in Iran and Director of the PLO's Tehran office was speaking to the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic-language publication, the daily newspaper Al Ra'i. He called for the "mobilisation of all efforts along the Eastern Front facing Israel and the pooling of Syrian, Jordanian, Iraqi and Palestinian forces to confront the imminent attack."

He said the "current situation is that of breaking bones," adding that "we have to brace ourselves for the coming war."

Mr. Hassan said the recent tour of the Middle East by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown "has failed in some countries of the region, including Jordan and Kuwait."

"Jordan's stand was brave indeed," he added. The Palestinian Leader said that following the revolution in Iran, "America is now suffering from the collapse of its first defence line in the region."

"It is now trying to build a new defence line, which is doomed to failure because it appeals only to America's agents in Egypt and Israel," he added.

"America must choose between Israel and the rest of the people which live in the region stretching from the borders of the Soviet Union in the east to the Atlantic in the west."

Mr. Hassan said the Palestinian commando movement "has supported the Iranian revolution despite advice that Palestinian support is a gamble."

But, "we realised from the beginning that the success of Iran's revolution against the Shah—a staunch supporter of Israel—will lead to significant strategic changes in the Middle East," he added.

The Iranian revolution "has considered the liberation of Jerusalem a religious and moral goal."

Mr. Hassan said the "countdown for the raising of the Palestinian flag on Palestinian territory has started" with the opening in Iran of a PLO office.

Speaking in his office at the Iranian Prime Ministry, since the PLO building is undergoing repair, Mr. Hassan said the PLO "will not allow itself to interfere in Iran's internal affairs, by siding with this faction or that in the natural struggle which will soon surface between the various political groupings in Iran."

"Iran has now changed from an enemy to a supporting ally" of the Palestinian struggle, he said, adding that the first action on the part of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in support of the Arab cause was changing the name of the Gulf from the "Persian Gulf" to the "Islamic Gulf."

"When the Shah called it the 'Persian Gulf' he meant to tell the world that Iran had a share on the other side of the Gulf and that Iran had the right to be the policeman of the Gulf," he added.

Iran has new air force chief Exerts efforts to resume oil exports

TEHRAN, Feb. 26 (R)—Iran today chose Brig. Asghar Imaiyani as its fourth Air Force Chief in two weeks, underlining the continuing political unrest in the most powerful air arm in the Middle East.

The Air Force played a crucial role in the uprising which toppled the Shah on Feb. 11 after technicians grounded U.S. built fighters and handed out weapons to civilian revolutionaries.

The appointment of Gen. Imaiyani was announced in an Armed Forces statement broadcast on the national radio.

The announcement, which gave no reason for the latest change, gave the armed forces the new post-revolutionary title of "National Iranian Islamic Armed Forces".

Immediately after the success of the revolution the word "national" replaced "imperial" but today was the first time "Islamic" has been used.

Radical Air Force officers have been pressing for a total purge of the Shah's senior officers and the right to elect their own commanders.

More than 250 armed forces generals have already been put on the retired list, eight have been executed and many are awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, a member of the Shah's former secret police Savak has been hanged after a revolutionary Islamic court found him guilty of torturing political prisoners.

(Continued on page 3)

Regional Briefs

Feb. 26 (R)—The Arab League Economic Council met today to discuss measures for closer Arab economic co-operation, including a joint Arab investment agreement and an Arab trade exchange among Arab countries. Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad urged the council to work on engineering Arab political, economic and social structures for strengthening the Arab League to enable it to cope with the challenges of the future.

Saudi Finance and Economy Minister Sheikh Abdul Kheil stressed the importance of Arab co-ordination including the establishment of joint firms in economic fields. Sheikh Mohammed also called for "inter-Arab trade exchange which he said did not amount to 1 per cent of the Arab trade volume, the agency said.

Feb. 26 (R)—King Khalid of Saudi Arabia today visiting Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis, News Agency said. It gave no details, but Mr. Karamanlis said a three-day official visit yesterday, is seeking Saudi understanding of the Cyprus issue. The Greek premier in economic cooperation agreement, which has been signed.

Feb. 26 (R)—Queen Elizabeth, on a 19-day tour of the Gulf, today inaugurated an aluminium smelter at Dubai, unique because waste heat from the turbines is used to desalinate seawater. When the plant, costing 500 million dollars, is in full production it will produce 100 million gallons of fresh water daily, equal to Dubai's needs. Earlier the Queen had unveiled a plaque at a huge lion port at Jebel Ali and this afternoon she was opened the biggest dry dock.

Feb. 26 (R)—A cold storage complex to provide food for the city of Kuwait at a cost of four million dollars (about \$18 million). Two Danish firms, Sabroe and Ibsen, won the contracts for the project's design, electrical and insulation works. The contract for the objects was signed here last week.

T, Feb. 26 (R)—Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohieddin today on an official visit to Hungary, met Hungarian Prime Minister Kadar today, the official news agency MTI reported. It gave no details on the meeting but said it was held "in a friendly atmosphere."

Feb. 26 (R)—President Zia-Ur-Rahman of Bangladesh today visited Iraq beginning next Wednesday, it was in Dacca yesterday. He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Shams-Ul-Huq, Planning and Finance Minister Nur-Ul-Huda, Social Welfare Minister S.A. Bari and Secretary S.A.M.S. Kabria. While enroute to President Zia will pay a pilgrimage visit to Mecca.

Feb. 26 (R)—Hungarian Defence Minister Lajos Czinege today for Addis Ababa ending a six-day visit to South Africa which he held talks to strengthen bilateral relations military cooperation.

Feb. 26 (R)—Lebanese rightist militias in the border region today shelled the Palestinian-leftist stronghold of Nabatieh and its environs, causing some damage, travel agency said the artillery bombardment, from Kleya and lasted for about an hour and was concentrated on a barracks in Nabatieh and the nearby Amous area. The shelling in Nabatieh was deserted during the shelling, they were no casualties reported. Meanwhile, United Nations said Nigerian troops attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon exchanged fire last night with rightist forces in the central sector. There were no casualties minute clash.

Senior Carter aides stress

U.S. will use force to protect oil interests in Arabian Gulf

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (R)—Two of President Carter's senior advisers today said the United States is prepared to use military force in the Gulf region to protect American interests threatened by the Iran crisis.

Energy Secretary James Schlesinger and Defence Secretary Harold Brown said today the United States will take military action, if necessary, to protect oil supplies from the Middle East and the safety of Gulf states.

The statements, made in separate television interviews, were the strongest so far by administration officials about the situation in Iran and its impact on U.S. security interests in the Gulf.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press", Mr. Schlesinger said the security of the Gulf states was vital to the United States.

"The United States must move in such a way that it protects those interests, even if that involves the use of military strength or of military presence," he said.

"The United States has substantial influence in the area and we should seek to maintain that influence because it is in our vital interests to do so," Mr. Schlesinger declared.

He added that military options were being considered by the administration but declined to give details.

Mr. Brown, appearing on the CBS "Face the Nation" programme, said the United States might use force, if needed, to protect its oil supplies from the Gulf area.

Asked whether the United States would go so far to protect Saudi Arabian oilfields which supply 20 per cent of U.S. oil imports, he replied: "Protection of the oil flow from the Middle East is clearly an area of vital interests. In protection of those vital interests we will take any action that is appropriate including military force."

Mr. Brown added that the Ayatollah Khomeini's government in Iran did not seem eager to form alliances with any major power.

The statements by the two officials appeared to reflect growing U.S. concern about the turmoil in Iran.

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Arab League steps into the dispute

North, South Yemen report heavy fighting

SANAA, Feb. 26 (R)—North Yemen said today that South Yemen forces backed by planes, tanks and heavy artillery have destroyed several towns and villages in its border region.

The statement by a foreign ministry spokesman was the first official acknowledgement by North Yemen that hostile troops had crossed the border during heavy fighting which began on Friday.

But in Aden the Nationalist Democratic Front, opposed to North Yemen's government, said today it had taken over the North Yemeni border town of Harib.

A spokesman for the Aden-based organisation said a North Yemeni paratroop unit in Harib had defected to the Front with all its weapons and equipment.

The spokesman added that the unit was now fighting alongside the Front's forces against "remnants of Sanaa regime's troops."

Earlier today, the Front, backed by South Yemen, said its forces were advancing towards North Yemeni positions on the borders with South Yemen.

Yesterday, the Front claimed that two North Yemeni border towns, Qatabah and Moryes had fallen to its forces.

North Yemen, which is closely allied with Saudi Arabia and the West, and South Yemen's pro-Soviet Marxist leaders have accused each other of provoking the clashes.

The North Yemeni foreign ministry statement, broadcast by Sanaa Radio, said numerous civilians had been killed or wounded during the attack and that many others had fled.

It said "aggression forces" which had crossed the border were being supported by Soviet-built MIG-21 warplanes, T-55 and T-62 tanks and 160 mm field guns.

The ministry said North Yemen was continuing to exercise self-restraint and appealed to Arab and international public opinion to condemn what it termed "the aggression committed by the Aden rulers."

Sanaa yesterday called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to end the fighting.

Arab League intervention ended the last major border war between the two Yemens in October, 1972, but a subsequent

agreement to unite into a single state was not implemented.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad called for a ceasefire last night and said both sides had agreed that the League's Council should step into the dispute.

He did not disclose any date for a meeting, however, and reliable Arab sources were not optimistic that it would achieve much.

Meanwhile, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah today appealed to North and South Yemen to end their armed conflict and resolve all differences between them in a peaceful and brotherly manner.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Aziz Husseini told reporters the Emir urged the two Yemens to cease border clashes and stop the bloodshed.

Mr. Hussein said the Kuwaiti cabinet followed with concern developments between the two Yemens, which accused each other of launching military border attacks, and appealed to them to settle their disputes peacefully.

In Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-

(Continued on page 3)

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What are the priorities?

UNRWA begins to trim fat from 1979 budget

By Ron Cathell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 26—Every year about this time the commissioner general and the regional directors of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) meet to discuss a painful problem—which expenditures to cut from the annual UNRWA budget.

It is a chronic problem inherent in the operational system of the agency. Drawing up each budget is accompanied by the lurking certainty that the budget can't be met. The United Nations doesn't allow UNRWA to go in the red or borrow money and the agency must rely solely on donations from governments and organisations for funding. So it never accurately knows at the outset of each year just how much money will be available. Each budget is drafted on the basis of services UNRWA would like to provide, rather than what it knows it can offer.

Last week, UNRWA Commissioner General Thomas McElhiney and the regional directors met as usual to consider which services must be included in the budget and which services, in order of lowest priority, would be excluded unless additional funding is received.

But this year's budget problem is substantially different. UNRWA is faced with its largest deficit ever—\$38 million. The primary cause for the record mark, according to UNRWA Director in Jordan, Mr. John Tanner, is cost increases. To offer the same services this year as last year will cost about \$30 million more. This year's budget calls for \$162 million in expenditures, but the agency has only \$124 million. The 1979 budget provides for improvements in services, especially in education, which will require the additional balance. If it is available.

Whether inflation or some other culprit is responsible for the cost increases, the deficit problem remains. And notwithstanding any major unexpected donations, the only way to remedy the situation is by surgery.

But to disclose all the details of earmarked cutbacks at this time could cause great disruption in the agency, Mr. Tanner said. If employees of a certain department knew they were the first to go, they might quit, only to have a government donate the necessary funds at the last minute which would have kept the workers employed.

The programmes this year which will be funded in full, and drain the budget of its \$124 million, are health services, relief and education. Health services

account for 14 per cent of the budget and include clinics and staff, sanitation of camps and preventive medicine, especially in maternal and child care.

Relief services are "received in kind," that is, food. Instead of cash, some countries prefer to send food—flour, rice, milk—appraised at a monetary value. These "in kind" donations have been steadily decreasing over the years. The relief services account for 32 per cent of the budget.

Education takes the lion's share of the budget—54 per cent. Of the agency's 16,600 employees, 11,000 are teachers with 307,000 students under their guidance in primary and preparatory schools. There are also 4,500 students in two-year vocational and teacher training centres.

Like last year, the seventh, eighth and ninth years of education (preparatory education for secondary school) cannot be offered beyond May because there isn't enough money.

Although preparatory education after May is one of the services earmarked to be cut from the budget, the first funds to be received above the \$124 million will be used to keep this programme going. An estimated \$10 million is needed.

It's possible this amount will be received. But if the last four years offer any indication of how much money above the \$124 million will be donated, UNRWA will be extremely fortunate to receive the needed \$10 million.

The percentage of contributions to total financial needs of the agency has been steadily declining. In 1975, 96 per cent of these needs were received. By 1978, this figure had dropped to 85.3 per cent. If the pattern continues, as expected, the agency might receive only 81 or 82 per cent, or even less, of the financing it needs for 1979. According to this projection the agency will receive a total of between \$131.2 million and \$132.8 million, a bit short of the additional amount needed to keep the preparatory education going, not to mention the other services lower on the priority list to be cut.

All of these latter items couldn't be described by Mr. Tanner because of the possible repercussions throughout the agency. But he did list some cutbacks, besides preparatory education, which were decided at the meeting last week. The areas in which cutbacks will take place are listed below in order of priority to receive the first available funding:

1) improvements in education; 2) improvements in agency facilities, such as paint for buildings, floor repairs, and drainage and road-work in the camps; 3) improve-

ments in staff conditions, such as better salaries and benefits; 4) increasing relief for refugees, such as food stuffs.

Because the agency is receiving less and less food contributions each year, it must spend precious cash to make up the shortage. The refugees might not be very happy to see that increasing their food rations is lower on the list of spending priorities than fresh paint for the buildings. Last year each refugee received 6.7 kilos of flour. This year they will receive 5 kilos each.

"There's nothing new in these reductions. They've been going on over several years but it's now more noticeable," Mr. Tanner said.

Nevertheless, the refugees are angry. "They threatened to strike earlier this year and not take any food at all," Mr. Tanner said. "They want the full programme with nothing cut. They'd have us provide all the services in full until we ran out of money and then just collapsed. No more UNRWA."

The refugees argue that the agency has always been plagued with budgetary problems and always will be. Yet it always manages somehow. They think the agency should provide full services, without any cutbacks, until the money runs out. Mr. Tanner said. At that critical point, the refugees argue, a cry for help will draw a redeeming donation from a rich Gulf state. And if not, then the agency simply ceases to exist.

The UNRWA administration, Mr. Tanner said, can't take the risk that such a contribution would come in time. And they don't want to see the agency cease to exist.

Such a situation nearly occurred in the last quarter of 1975. The regional directors were informed at the time that the agency would collapse in five weeks if additional funding wasn't received. There was only enough money left in the budget to keep the agency alive another five weeks. The directors were instructed to prepare termination of service notices for all employees.

Within a few hours of the deadline when the notices were to have been delivered, the agency unexpectedly received a \$5 million congressional donation from the United States which carried it through till 1976.

Every year the agency faces the possibility of collapse. But it does manage, partly despite its inherent budgetary problems and partly because of them. When the general budget is drawn, it is known that it can't be met. So each operational budget is padded with additional cost needs so that the basic needs can at least be met. This requires that every year the fat must be trimmed from the budget to equal the donations.

"If we operated on a balanced budget everyone would think we had no problems and wouldn't give us any attention," Mr. Tanner said. "They'd think we weren't in desperate need of funds and so we'd receive even less than we do now."

Low-cost children's stores Higher Council for Childcare proposed in new draft laws

By Breda Finegan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Plans for introducing long-term projects for children during International Year of the Child are going along quite nicely and it's not only children who will benefit but parents as well. One thing to please them will be the establishment of a chain of shops which will sell essential items for children at much reduced rates in comparison with market prices. This will be a great relief for parents struggling to cope with ever steep prices because of import taxes on essential items.

As well as the new shops it has also been decided to form a Higher Council for Childcare, to take responsibility for all aspects of childcare policy in the country.

Dr. Izzat Jaradat, secretary general of the Jordan National Committee for International Year of the Child (JNCIYC) told the Jordan Times that two draft laws concerning these ventures have been drawn up and sent to the Department of Social Affairs at the Ministry of Labour for a reading before going on to the Cabinet for endorsement.

The Higher Council for Childcare, to be headed by the prime minister, will be responsible for preparing a national plan for childcare including health and educational aspects, for interpreting that plan into integrated programmes and for carrying out studies and research into childcare in Jordan in order to plan future programmes.

According to the draft law the council will have the authority to examine all existing children's services in the country—government and private—with an eye to improvement.

The Higher Council for Childcare will have 15 members, representing the relevant ministries and individuals from the private sector, who will decide on policy. The actual bulk of the work will fall on the shoulders of an executive committee, also to be formed of representatives from ministries and the private sector.

The second draft law concerning the children's shops, grew from the initiative of the General Union of Voluntary Societies who mooted the idea early in this year of trying to get toys and essential items for children brought into the country tax-free.

It has been decided by the national committee to follow the idea through in a big way. According to the draft law some 20 "Child Shops" will be set up throughout the country—especially in underprivileged areas—during International Year of the Child.

The draft law says "any" child, regardless of nationality, living in Jordan and up to the age of 17 years can benefit from the shops.

Imported goods will be sold tax-free and Jordanian goods will be sold at cost prices. The shop will provide the basic needs of children: food, clothes and toys and there will also be goods in stock for the mother-to-be.

The General Union of Voluntary Societies will be responsible for the shops and it is hoped they will be aided by an interest-free loan from the government.

The third long-term project which has been agreed upon is one called "From Child to Child" and is an educational programme to be introduced to elementary schools. This programme is all about measuring and the child. Children will be encouraged to measure and record their height, weight and other personal information—like for instance shoe size.

Hopefully this programme will help children develop concentration, skills in arithmetic and also an appreciation of nutrition and the way the body grows.

The Ministry of Education will set up a special course for elementary school teachers to be introduced in introducing this programme.

On the short-term, a competition has been planned for a week in April. One hundred fifty drawings and paintings will be chosen by a jury of committees.

Schools were invited to exhibit about 50 drawings and paintings on the theme "My Life and the Child." The winning drawings will be under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and children participating will receive medals for their efforts.

Cabinet endorses Kuwait loan to Arab Potash Co.

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—The Cabinet yesterday endorsed a million loan agreement between the Arab Potash Company and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The sides last month signed the agreement for the loan which will be used for the purchase of machinery needed at the potash company site near the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

Coming & Going

Arab Mining Co. director off to Riyadh

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—Director General of the Arab Mining Company Thabet Al Taher left for Riyadh yesterday to attend a meeting of the Arab Economic Council which started today. During the three-day meeting participants will discuss among other topics Arab economic strategy and a unified Arab draft agreement on investment; they will also review joint Arab industrial and mining projects. Mr. Al Taher said.

Jordan Medical Assn. leader leaves for Damascus meeting

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—President of the Jordanian Medical Association Dr. Hassan Khreis left for Damascus today to take part in the executive bureau meeting of the Arab Union of Doctors which starts in the Syrian capital tomorrow. Topics for discussion include the union's financial affairs, activities of the union's various committees and preparations for the world medical conference to be held in Amman next April, Dr. Khreis said. Taking part in the several-day meeting are delegates from Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Tunisia.

UNESCO representative arrives in Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—A representative of the director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Mr. Mahmoud Al Sa'di, arrived here today for a several-day visit to Jordan. In a statement upon arrival, Mr. Sa'di said he will have talks with Ministry of Education officials.

Ministry of Education officials meet in Beirut

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—Deputy Director of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Adel Al-Hamdan, left for Beirut today to attend the meeting of the Arab Union of Teachers which starts in the Lebanese capital tomorrow. Topics for discussion include the union's financial affairs, activities of the union's various committees and preparations for the world educational conference to be held in Amman next April, Mr. Al-Hamdan said. Taking part in the several-day meeting are delegates from Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Tunisia.

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Sabre-rattling

IF THE UNITED STATES is trying to create conditions conducive to peace in the Middle East—or even merely to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel—we fail to see what it hopes to achieve by the sabre-rattling statements made during the weekend by Defence Secretary Harold Brown and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger.

The two men hinted that the U.S. was ready to use military force in order to protect America's interests in the Gulf and to guarantee the flow of Middle East oil.

Although these astonishing statements purport to come in response to the events in Iran, what they demonstrate is that America has failed to learn the lesson of Iran. The Iranian revolutionary movement is not only an Islamic phenomenon; it is above all a nationalist movement. It is as such that it has stirred enthusiasm elsewhere in the region. It is not from the standpoint of religion that the Ayatollah Khomeini has declared Iran's support for Arab, and specifically Palestinian, rights against Israel, but from the standpoint of the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stand adopted by the new Iranian regime.

Moreover, the new Iranian government has declared itself firmly against any attempts by any outside power—and that goes for the Soviet Union as well as for the United States—to interfere politically and militarily in the Middle East. This has also struck a responsive chord in the Arab World, which more and more sees the American-engineered Camp David process as an attempt by the United States to secure its own interests in this area at the expense of the interests of the people of the region themselves—particularly the Palestinians who are accustomed to, but no less bitter about, being considered dispensable by previous imperial and colonial powers).

Egypt's expressed eagerness to act as the local agent for these American interests, to the extent of dispatching its armed forces to distant trouble spots, has thus raised huge suspicions among Arabs, not excluding Egyptians themselves.

There is no one in the Middle East who should welcome the prospect of American armed intervention. Mr. Brown should know that, having just visited the area and talked with Arab leaders. As for Mr. Schlesinger, he continues to act as if there is no foreseeable diminution of the profligate American thirst for Middle East oil. Instead of launching American gunboats in the direction of the Gulf, he should be boosting urgent efforts to develop alternative sources of energy for power-hungry America. The Saudis would, we are sure, be the first to agree with that.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Under the heading "A return to the Big Stick Policy" AL RA'I Monday charges that the U.S. is insisting on letting the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty pass through willy-nilly, and has already begun to put its new concept of security in the Middle East into effect through an open Military participation to preserve the American interests in the region.

The newspaper says that an American formula for a compromise solution which was agreed upon in Camp David Two was reportedly due to be presented to the Egyptian and Israeli governments for study. This clearly indicates the advent of a new and extremely dangerous stage in the area, Al Ra'i adds.

Jordan's call for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the Israeli measures to annex and Judaize Arab occupied land has come to reveal the alarming deviation of the American supervised Egyptian-Israeli talks from any realistic concept of peace in the Middle East, the newspaper writes.

Al Ra'i concludes by warning that the U.S. administration would commit a grave mistake if, in order to preserve its interests and those of its western allies in the area, it brandished the "big stick" or exercised intimidation through the Israeli military power.

AL DUSTOUR deplores the current border fighting between North and South Yemen. It calls on the Arab countries, represented by the Arab League to "do the impossible to persuade San'a and Aden to stop this fratricidal dispute which," the newspaper thinks, "is being fought by instigation of foreign hands."

Clubs, Societies, Sports Groups-- let us know what you are doing

Our "What's going on" section needs YOUR help if it is going to be a success. It's the news of your clubs, your exhibitions, your meetings and outings that are open to the public which appear in "What's going on". Help us to help you publicise your public events: charity bazaars, school open days, concerts, commercial exhibitions—our readers are interested in your event.

Please write us at P.O. Box 6710, telephone 67171 or even call in at our offices on the Amman-Swedish road between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and tell us what's going on.

The Jordan Times will publish free listings on the day of the event.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF H.E. THE MINISTER OF CULTURE & YOUTH

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

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Two Concerts of music for Piano, Cello and Clarinet

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THE MUSIC GROUP OF LONDON

Saturday, third and Tuesday, sixth of March
At the British Council Centre
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British Council Centre



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Restaurant... is open...

- * Specialised in oriental food, meat, birds on charcoal fire, oriental pastries,
- * Daily family dish with yoghurt milk cup.
- * Every evening sheep knuckles from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.
- * We also provide safari food.*

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ENGLISH CLASSES - 1979

THIRD TERM

The British Council is starting classes for the third term on Monday, March 5th. If you are interested in attending English classes, please call at the British Council for information. Registration and placement tests take place from:

Monday, Feb. 26th to Saturday, March 3rd
From: 9-12; 4-5.

WHAT'S GOING ON

English Film

The British Council presents Blake Edwards' "The Return of the Pink Panther" starring Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau. The film starts at 6:00 p.m., and tickets reserving free entry are available at the reception desk.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a film based on a story by Ingeborg Bachmann entitled "Drei Wege zum See." The film is directed by Michael Haneke, and will start at 8:00 p.m. Subtitles in English.

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1978 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS, FULL
AUTOMATIC
PLEASE CONTACT TEL. 72610.

Iran's scheduled prayers for in Jordan may be law drafted in advance

Jordan Times
If reporter

Feb. 26—The post-drought this year is concern across the Ministry of Awarat Affairs has announced for rain will be held throughout Jordan. Those soon-to-be rains may be a relief for the country's agricultural sector.

Front moving should be here by March, Dr. Ali Aban-... General of the... Transport, told the... Amman should be the first prayers are this winter has been

Iran
(Continued from page 1)

Iranian morning news reported today to the report, Hossein Naderi, who was in Iran's second... of Isfahan, was... Tehran.

Iran's sources close to the government and mem-... today that Shahpoor... former premier in Iran... refuge in Morocco.

Iranian Pars news... report from Bahrain... quoted a Kuwaiti... saying Dr. Bakhtiar... coo.

er development, the... of the National Iranian... (NIOC) flew to the... at Abadan today in... in worker support for... mption of oil exports... were stopped as... political up-heaval

Yemen
(Continued from page 1)

Nahayyan made a similar appeal urging the two Arab states to cease fire and return forces to their original positions.

UAE Foreign Minister Ahmed Khalifa Al Suwaidi said Sheikh Zaid made the appeal during a meeting with North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Asag and former Deputy Premier Yehia Jaghman who visited Abu Dhabi to explain the situation and deliver a message from North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Sheikh Zaid.

The two officials are on a Gulf tour on a similar mission.

In Baghdad, a North Yemeni envoy delivered a message today from President Saleh dealing with the current fighting on the border with South Yemen, the Iraq News Agency (INA) reported.

It said the message was handed over to Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), by visiting Information Minister Mohamed Salem Basendwa.

Mr. Basendwa was accompanied by the North Yemeni Deputy Commander of the Armed Forces Mujahed Abu Shawarab, both of whom arrived on Saturday.

Mr. Basendwa arrived tonight in Damascus where he is due to hand a message from President Saleh to President Hafez Al Assad.

And, according to North Yemeni sources in Amman, he is expected in Amman tomorrow to deliver a similar message to His Majesty King Hussein.

Iran's scheduled prayers for in Jordan may be law drafted in advance

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NCC proposes complaints by correspondence bureau

By Awni Bader
Special in the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (J.T.)—The establishment of a complaint bureau to which Jordanian citizens can send their grievances and see them answered by mail was one of five proposals which the National Consultative Council put to the government at the council's regular session today.

Other proposals included asphaltting roads, extending electricity to the villages in the Bani Hamideh area, permitting shopkeepers to take up as much as 20 cms of the pavement in front of their stores to display samples of their goods and allowing tractor trailers transporting water or agricultural produce to use the village and rural roads.

The council heard the government's reply on a motion by Shamseddine Tash on the necessity of erecting shelters for passengers along stopping points of cars and buses on the Zarqa-Ruseife-Amman road. In his reply Mayor of Amman Ma'n Abu Nuwar said a comprehensive study on this subject is being conducted by the technical committee of the Amman regional corporation which covers all car stops in the region.

The council further heard a reply from the minister of agriculture on an enquiry by Sultan Majid Al Adwan regarding banning export of local bread beans and allowing their import from abroad. The reply said that the ministry has banned the import

but not the export of this commodity of which 50 million tons had been exported until Feb. 4.

On the other hand the council approved an amended law for civil service pensions for 1979 and an amended law for the Central Bank of Jordan for 1979.

During the debate on the last draft law the rapporteur of the Committee for Financial Affairs Mohammad Al Farhan Al Ubeidat admonished council members who dwell on debate without justification but finally agree on texts as they are received from the government or from the council's committees.

The meeting was adjourned without the council being able to complete debating the items on its agenda.

Jordan requests Security Council support

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim said here today Israel "has so far expropriated 27 per cent of the total area of the occupied West Bank."

Speaking to heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Amman, in the course of explaining Jordan's call last Friday for a Security Council meeting on Israel's colonisation policy, Mr. Ibrahim said the expropriated area was the "most fertile" in the West Bank.

Mr. Ibrahim said Israel has so far established 115 settlements in the occupied Arab territories, of which 68 are on the West Bank of Jordan.

Mr. Ibrahim said "grave dangers are inherent in the aggressive Israeli policy which aims at altering the Arab character of the occupied territories."

By calling a Security Council meeting, Jordan "aims at urging the World Community to interfere and stop Israel's expansionist policy," he added.

He requested the diplomats to convey Jordan's attitude to their governments and asked them for support of the Jordanian stand on this issue.

King Hussein opens centre for the deaf and dumb

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—His Majesty King Hussein yesterday inaugurated the Queen Alia centre for the deaf and dumb at Al Russeifa northeast of Amman.

After the inauguration, the King, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Her Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein toured the various sections of the new centre and were briefed on the services and type of care offered to handicapped people.

Later the president of the Queen Alia society for the care and rehabilitation of the deaf and dumb which sponsors the new centre made a speech before the King explaining that the centre will develop the capabilities of handicapped people to enable them to communicate.

People ...in the news

Among the most distinguished visitors spent in Amman this week was Dr. George Tomeh, Syrian ambassador to the United Nations for over eight years before retiring from the diplomatic service. Dr. and Mrs. Tomeh were here on a brief visit to daughter Hala, a special education teacher, from their current home in Kuwait where Dr. Tomeh works as advisor on international relations to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Although Hala has lived in Amman for two years now this is only Dr. Tomeh's second ever trip to Jordan—the first being a quick 24 hour visit last year. The Tomehs seemed rather favourably impressed with life in Amman. Maybe we will see more of them?

King Hussein Medical Centre: Dr. Najwa Bulos, pediatrician from the Jordan University Hospital and Dr. Ahd Shaker, internist from the Bashir Hospital, discussed the most recent studies on the prevention of rheumatic fever through the treatment of sore throat with good old penicillin. Despite an inveterate slide, some heated arguments and numerous sure feet, the audience enjoyed filling their mind before besieging the tea table to fill their stomachs.

On Wednesday an interesting but frequently underdiagnosed and undertreated condition, appendicitis in pregnancy, was the topic that attracted an abnormally large audience to the bi-weekly medical Journal Club. Gynecologist Dr. Mahmoud Amer and general surgeon Dr. Ahmad Sroujeh, both from the University of Jordan Hospital, discussed the few cases they had encountered and the conclusions they had drawn from their experience. Dr. Sroujeh then reviewed the source literature published on this subject. He punctuated his talk with repeated remarks expressing his amazement at having to speak from the lecturer's stand instead of the usual cosy little circle of chairs!

13 new factories to get licences

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—The planning committee of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce today decided to grant licences to 13 new factories whose total capital amounts to nearly JD 1,760,296. Some 504 workmen and employees will be working at the new factories.

SCB DEPARTMENT STORE
Shmeisani Near Omar Kayyam Hotel Tel: 63821
We are Open Every Day of The Week
From 9 a.m. Thru 8 p.m.
NO PARKING PROBLEMS



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan speaks with citizens and officials during his tour of villages near Amman Monday.

Prince Hassan tours villages around Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today made an inspection tour of several villages in the Amman area.

In his meeting with citizens the Crown Prince received requests for better health, educational transport and postal services as well as water supply and electricity

in their regions. He urged citizens to offer more cooperation with the authorities in seeking solutions to problems facing their villages. Prince Hassan later called at the Talbiyeh refugee camp and acquainted himself with the various public services offered to the camp where nearly 7,000 people live.

Accompanying the Crown Prince on his tour were Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Mayor of Amman Ma'n Abu Nuwar and several officials.

LOCAL

EXCHANGE

RATES

U.S. dollar	297.00/299.00
U.K. sterling	598.00/602.00
West German mark	160.70/160.90
Swiss franc	178.40/179.50
French franc	69.50/69.90
Italian lire	(for every 100) 35.30/35.50
Japanese yen	(for every 100) 147.50/148.40
Dutch guilder	148.60/149.50
Belgian franc	101.70/102.30
(for every ten)	68.20/68.60
Swedish crown	

...SOON... GREEN VALLEY SUPERMARKET

UM UZAYNA QUARTER
NO PARKING PROBLEMS

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consisting of three large bedrooms, dining room, sitting room with wall closets, large kitchen, and two verandas with central heating.

Please contact tel. 43148

FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET OR TO SHARE

Consisting of three bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, large garden with mature trees, telephone, T.V. and garage.

Location: near the University
Yearly rent: JD 1,500.

Please contact tel. 64417, Mr. Darrah.

HOUSE FOR RENT

A house consisting of three bedrooms, two salons, dining room, two bathrooms, three glassed verandas, laundry room, garden and garage with central heating. Location: Jabal Amman, between Sixth and Seventh Circles, entrance to General Security Quarter. Building area is 250 square metres.

For further details contact tel. 42111.

TO LET

A new first class furnished room in Shmeisani with bath, kitchenette and private telephone completely independent.

Please contact tel. 66620.

1 - Furnished apartment for rent (in two storey building)

Overlooking Sports City, three bedrooms, living and dining room, two baths, fully wall to wall shag carpeted. All new American furniture, coloured 25" T.V., refrigerator, washing machine and dryer, independent heating, two balconies.

A cosy apartment for a manager
Minimum lease: one year.

2 - For sale

Motor Camper Dodge 75, 32,000 miles, good condition, customs already paid. Could be used as 11 passenger bus.

Call: DAJANI, tel. 64697.

JORDAN TIMES

IS LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED TRANSLATOR (Arabic-to-English)

Candidate must be:

- Native Arabic speaker with fluent idiomatic English
- Graduate of an English-speaking college or university
- Willing to work nights, six days a week
- Able to type at least 30 words a minute

Previous experience in newspapers, radio or television would be a decided advantage.

Genuinely interested candidates should contact Mr. Lee on 67171, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., from Monday, to arrange interview and test.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Weather will be fine with light and variable winds becoming moderate to fresh at times. In Aqaba Gulf there will be tions with northerly moderate winds gradually becoming moderate and with calm seas becoming rough.

	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	5	23
Irbid	12	28
Jerash	9	25
Madaba	4	24

IMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

OF COMPANY	Par value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	7,349	6,570	6,590	6,570
Cement Factories	JD 10,000	1,080	14,400	—	14,400
Phosphate Mines	JD 1,000	1,833	2,180	2,180	2,200
Bank	JD 1,000	1,725	1,050	1,050	1,160
Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	459	1,020	1,010	1,020
dawa Development and	JD 1,000	200	1,970	2,040	2,000
ent Co.	JD 1,000	3,484	1,340	1,350	1,340
Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	139	930	950	930
Ceramic Industries	JD 5,000	288	—	—	7,600
Tobacco And Cigarette Co.	JD 1,000	1,248	960	970	960
Juminiun Co.	JD 1,000	393	2,520	—	2,520
al, Commercial And	JD 1,000	920	—	4,650	4,600
ural Co.	JD 5,000	1,450	7,220	7,300	7,250
Lime and Silicate Bricks	JD 1,000	210	—	—	1,050
ies Co.	JD 1,000	463	710	710	710
f Jordan Co.	JD 1,000	525	2,100	2,100	2,100
International Investment	JD 1,000	210	690	750	700
ading Co.	JD 1,000	290	18,150	18,150	—
ab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	—	—	—	—
em Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	—	—	—	—
Spinning and Weaving Co.	JD 1,000	—	—	—	—
armaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 5,000	—	—	—	—

Volume traded, Monday, Feb. 26: JD 22,266

Number of shares traded: 10,143

	Par Value	Volume Traded	Number Traded	Selling Price
ment Development Bonds	JD 5,000	150	30	5,030
	JD 5,000	388	77	5,050
	JD 10,000	1,022	100	10,220

Volume traded: JD 1,560

The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan The Jordan Valley Authority

Grading, Packing and Marketing Centre
Miscellaneous Equipments and Materials
Addendum No. 1

Notice of Change in Delivery Dates.

Jordan Valley Authority has revised the delivery schedule for Miscellaneous Equipment and Materials as follows:

Group 1: September 15 1979

Group 2: September 30 1979

Group 3: October 15 1979

Omar Abdallah Doghkan
(President)
J.V.A.

The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan The Jordan Valley Authority

Arda Grading, Packing and Marketing Centre
Grading and Packing Equipment
Addendum No. 1

Notice of Change in Delivery Dates.

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Group 1: September 15 1979

Group 2: September 30 1979

Group 3: October 15 1979

Omar Abdallah Doghkan
(President)
J.V.A.

She is helping to build a new city

By Pat McDonnell
Photos by Haytham Kawakibi
Special to the Jordan Times

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a continuing series on Women of Syria.

DAMASCUS—When people say Raghdha Kurdi is dynamic, they mean it literally. She is one of a 10-person engineering team that daily blows up Mount Kassioun—the limestone mountain that has towered above Damascus since time immemorial—for a massive development project.

Ms. Kurdi was graduated in 1962 from a five-year civil engineering program at Aleppo University. "There were only eight women students in the Faculty of Engineering in 1962," she said. "However, my sister was graduated in 1958 from the same school and she went on to Manchester, England, to get her M.Sc. in concrete engineering."

From 1967 to 1975, the fetching Ms. Kurdi worked as an engineer on roads, bridges and buildings for the Municipality of Aleppo. Her work entailed regular visits to the Aleppo airport and it was there that she met a dashing Syrian Air Force Colonel, Walid Shaban, who holds aeronautical engineering degrees from Texas University.

Their marriage has produced three children: Samir, 11; Reima, 10; and Hani, four and a half, who already reads Arabic and English primers.

In 1975, Col. Shaban took a position as technical director of Syrian Arab Airlines in Damascus, he was recently appointed to

its board of directors. Soon after the family moved to Damascus, Ms. Kurdi joined the Mount Kassioun project.

"I disliked working inside an office on master plans," she said, "and I found myself drawn to becoming involved in projects that were excavating the mountain for roads."

Actually, what happened was that within 20 days of joining the Mount Kassioun project, Ms. Kurdi had donned a hard hat and hiking boots and she was blowing up the mountain.

Said her husband: "Raghdha more or less broke the ground for other women who've been hired as field engineers. Now, in addition to her work at Mount Kassioun, Raghdha is in charge of clean-up crews for construction projects throughout Damascus. You might say she's cleaning up the city instead of personally cleaning up her house—a servant does that."

Col. Shaban is obviously proud of his wife—and so he should be. She manages to be a beautiful woman, a good mother, a top-notch household manager and a first-rate engineer.

"We both may be engineers, but Walid is in aeronautics. I'm in civil engineering," she said. "Our work is different, but our minds work on the same track."

At Mount Kassioun, Ms. Kurdi is now one of five women engineers—not too bad considering there are a total of 10 engineers in a project that employs 800 workmen.

Her primary job at Mount Kassioun is to supervise four engineers in addition to preparing maps and reports for government

bureau dealing with water, electricity, phones, roads and buildings.

"I'm really not that unusual," she said modestly, "come, let me show you my female counterparts who are really roughing it."

With that, we jumped into her VW beetle and drove up the mountain into an unpaved region of Mount Kassioun where she introduced me to another Raghdha: Raghdha Berzawi, a 1978 graduate of Damascus University School of Engineering.

Ms. Berzawi arrives in the hinterlands of Mount Kassioun at 6 a.m.—her headquarters is a trailer. She puts in a 10-hour day and when necessary, she takes the wheel of a six-gear truck. In the summer, she's on the job, directing workmen in 44 degree heat. Her assistant is another woman, Wafah Akkad, a graduate surveyor, one of 20 women surveyors on the project.

When asked what an assistant woman surveyor does, Ms. Akkad said: "One of my jobs is to calculate the amount of concrete that is necessary for the road we're excavating."

"There are 30 workmen on this crew and they all feel like brothers to Raghdha," Ms. Kurdi explained. "There is no silliness nor resentment over taking orders from a woman engineer."

Added Ms. Berzawi: "We work as a family, we couldn't get the job done otherwise. The workmen are my friends, they will all come to my wedding next week when I marry another engineer."

Ten hours is the norm for Ms. Kurdi to be on the job, but it's not unusual for her to work 18 hours a day. This happened when the Sheraton Hotel had to meet an opening deadline by July 1 and the government called in the Mount Kassioun engineers to complete the job.

"No matter what my hours, I feel that if it is a road, I'm building that road for my children. If it's a town, I'm building it for the future Damascus my children will know. If it's a clean-up job, it's for the beautification of Damascus," Ms. Kurdi said.

"We are a Third World country, but in ten years, who knows what Syria will be? The sacrifices are worth it."

During the Sheraton clean-up job, Ms. Kurdi worked seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. for 20 days.

"Granted, my husband wasn't

too happy with my absence from the home, but we both looked at the inconvenience from the viewpoint that the opening of the Sheraton Hotel would show the world that Syria can produce."

How does she combine traditional Syrian motherhood with being a career woman?

"All of us are out of the house daily by 7 a.m.," she said. "I leave a bit earlier, but household chores are taken care of the night before."

Ms. Kurdi does the cooking for the week—at least three heavy casseroles—on Friday mornings. Friday afternoons are reserved for family excursions to Bludan, Barada or Abudane.

"A maid comes in daily for three hours to pick up the house, but I do the washing (automatic washer) and ironing on whatever evening friends don't drop in," she said.

The Shabans live in a very large dwelling in the Mezzeh district of Damascus. Col. Shaban was recruited to wallpaper the eight-room house and he discovered he enjoys it. Both engineers redesigned the structure entirely before they moved in. It's nothing for them to entertain 50 at a celebration, nor 20 at a family get-together.

Ms. Kurdi's excellence is to be expected—according to her yearbooks at Aleppo University.

In 1961, she was chosen the "Perfect Girl" of six Egyptian and Syrian Universities: Damascus, Aleppo, Cairo, Alexandria, Asyut and Al-Azhar. She was the cover girl on numerous Arabic publications and was to receive a free trip to Europe until the union was broken between Egypt and Syria. Nonetheless, she and her family have travelled many times to Europe—gratis, thanks to her husband's connections with Syrian Airlines.

It's a super family and perhaps much of its charm comes from the promise of the future that all are striving toward.

Tomorrow on this page: What the Kassioun project is all about.



On the job at Mount Kassioun: (from left) Ali Habbay, Prime Minister; Adib Malkam, Minister of Presidential Affairs; Ms. Kurdi; Elie Nakhle; Basheer Al-Ans, Chief Agricultural Engineer; and Ali Traheley, Director of the Mount Kassioun Project.



Family portrait: Reima, 11; Raghdha Kurdi; Col. Walid Shaban, Samir, 11; and Hani 4½.



Raghdha Kurdi prepares tea for visitors in her Mezzeh home.



The great iron ore fields of the Hama region of Western Asia opened in 1966, are no longer a male domain. The men of the north now work side by side with a growing band of women. Assistant Alexis Whitley, Paignton, Britain, is a maker's assistant. (Aust Information Service)

AMMAN MARKET PLACE

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مكتبة لائل

ST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 27, 1979

ur HOROSCOPE

CARROLL BIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening for you to do for persons who are in some difficulty. Avoid anything of an unpredictable leap cheerful at all times.

Mar. 21 to Apr. 19: Sit down with those you deal with in the days ahead and formulate plans. Your hunches are good, so follow them.

Apr. 20 to May 20: Get together with good people you have done your necessary work. You are in a wish that is important to you.

May 21 to June 21: You are now able to make pressure on influential persons who can give you there your talents are concerned.

CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Try to be more adding of the viewpoints of others and gain their help. Make personal plans for the future.

July 22 to Aug. 21: Use your intuition and you get results in handling practical problems now. Deepen friendship with an associate.

Aug. 22 to Sept. 22: Study outside affairs that are to you and come up with the right answers. Moments that will make you feel more dynamic.

Sept. 23 to Oct. 22: Convince associates that a fine plan and gain their cooperation. Use extra motion today.

Oct. 23 to Nov. 21: Put new ideas to work show your finest talents to advantage. Avoid one-trick pony. Be careful of con artists.

TARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Do whatever will make home life more secure and harmonious. Strive for happiness.

CORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Obtain the data you need in the day and make good use of it. A good day uniting successfully with others.

JANUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): You have good ideas to add to your present income and should put operation without delay. Be happy.

Feb. 20 to Mar. 20: Go after whatever will make your personal life more as you want it to be. Be as you feel better.

REN BRIDGE

WILLIAM H. GOREN
OMAR SHARIF

By Chicago Tribune

Director of the Monte Carlo

TH
6
K Q J 10
43
37
EAST
K Q J 10 9
3
K 8 6 2
9
K 9 8

TH
7 5 4
K Q J 10 2
6 3
South West
6 Pass
Two of

ard tells a story, read the opening city and came up with a plan to bring diamond slam. log was direct and int. After East's outh decided that to be in slam, so he hat he expected to ad the deuce of a declarer correct as a singleton. If d divided 2-2, the d be a planola- ould draw trumps, dummy by over-

taking the trump two to take discards on the hearts. To test this, declarer won the ace of spades and cashed the ace and king of diamonds. Unfortunately, West turned up with three trumps. Declarer could not afford to concede a spade, for a third spade from East would allow West to ruff higher than dummy. At first glance it seemed that declarer's only chance was to find West with the king of clubs, and so force an entry to dummy in clubs while keeping East off the lead. But the fact that East had made a vulnerable overcall made it likely that he held the monarch.

After some thought declarer found a sure-trick line. He continued with his low trump, allowing West to score a trump trick with the eight.

West did not relish the prospect of being on lead. He was down to nothing but hearts and clubs, and no matter which suit he led, he would have to put declarer in dummy. There was obviously no point to a heart return, so West tried a club in the forlorn hope that East held the ace. Declarer played the jack from dummy, East covered with the king and declarer won the ace. A club to the queen put him in dummy, and the good hearts provided a welcome parking spot for the three remaining spades and one club.

Safety-belt system



These photographs illustrate an integral safety-belt system for children of all ages, exhibited at an auto mechanics fair in Frankfurt, West Germany. An extra belt secures the shoulders even when the child wriggles sideways. Young passengers age six to ten sit in their own bucket seat designed to ensure that the hip belt fits properly. A special back rest is provided for children age three to six. Above the shoulder a shock absorber can be fitted to the belt to lessen the effect of forward motion in a crash. (Dad photo)

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EWLEH
YORFE
TUSHIA
REGUOM



WHAT SNOBS MIGHT KEEP FROM OTHERS.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: LARVA OUAKE BENUMS SHERRY
Answer: What you might find in "Hamlet," the way it's often performed these days — A "HAM"

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



Best birthday wishes, dear. And many happy returns!

THE Daily Crossword by Jack Luzzatto

ACROSS
1 Waterfall
8 Hobbies
13 Tasty
14 Equaled in talent
16 Needlelike
17 Running to win
18 Nappy leather
19 Splin
21 The bill
22 Bugle call
23 Saintly child
24 Man to a tailor

DOWN
25 Ocean: abbr.
26 Secret meeting
27 Castle ditches
28 Margin for error
30 Lockjaw
32 Intricate
34 More verand
36 Disco light
40 House help
41 Diplomatic assets
43 Forefront
44 Matterhorn and Jungfrau
45 High flyer

11 Level upland
12 Intersecting lines
14 Fastener
15 Obligations
20 Laid away for safe-keeping
23 Nordic type
24 Real loser
26 Fiction
27 Dillon and others
29 Garden manse
31 Savor
33 Gets one-self going
34 Lead ores
35 Witty retort
37 Extend on and beyond
38 First-aid binding
39 Joined the race
40 Fine house for short
42 Fasteners
45 Merits
46 — face work
48 Setzed
49 In this place
51 Go very quickly
53 Kiddy

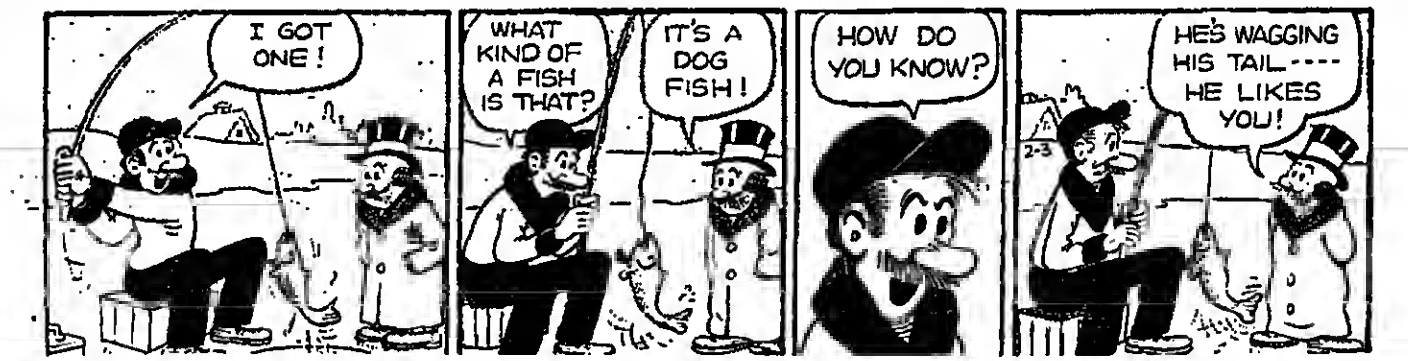
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Flinstones



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3:
5:30 Quran
5:45 Cartoons
6:00 Children's programme
7:00 Morning show
7:10 Return to Peyton Place
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:30 Arabic programme
10:15 Dollars
11:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 4:
6:30 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:30 Comedy
9:10 The Queen Line
10:30 News in English
10:15 Dallas

RADIO JORDAN
7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning show
8:00 News headlines
10:03 Morning show
10:30 Faces and Places
11:00 Sign off
12:00 Sign on and news headlines
12:03 Radiotheque
12:05 News summary
12:25 Radiotheque
12:30 News Reports
12:35 Sign off

BBC RADIO
14:00 News bulletin
14:10 Music
14:30 In Concert
15:00 Country hour
16:00 News summary
16:03 Easy listening
16:30 Old favourites
17:00 Country music
18:00 News Summary
18:03 Play of the week
19:00 News bulletin
19:10 News Reports
19:30 Sign off

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
12:30 The Breakfast Show
13:00 News, Pop music, features, listeners' questions
17:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses
18:00 Special English: news, feature
18:30 News Music USA

ARRIVALS:
6:30 Baghdad, Bahrain (RJ-GF)
11:30 Kuwait
12:40 Riyadh (SOI)
13:30 New York
17:30 Madrid, Athens
17:45 Copenhagen, Vienna
18:00 London, Paris
18:15 Rome
19:20 Cairo (EA)
19:25 Amsterdam, Aden (KLM)
19:30 Beirut (MEA)
19:40 Baghdad (IA)
21:00 Jordan
21:15 Damascus
23:30 Cairo
02:00 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES:
7:40 Damascus, London (BA)
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
9:00 Frankfurt
9:30 Rome
11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
13:40 Riyadh, Dhahran (SOI)
19:00 Cairo
19:15 Damascus
20:25 Cairo (EA)
20:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ-GF)
20:15 Baghdad (IA)
21:00 Jordan
21:30 Dhahran
22:50 Doha, Moscow (RJ-GF)
23:30 Bahrain, Bangkok
03:00 Cairo (EA)

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre... Tel. 41521
British Council... Tel. 36147-8
French Cultural Centre... Tel. 37009
German Cultural Centre... Tel. 36361-2
Soviet Cultural Centre... Tel. 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre... Tel. 24548
Hays Arts Centre... Tel. 65195
Hansen Youth City... Tel. 67181
V.W.C.A. (Voluntary Women's Club of America)... Tel. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. (Young Men's Christian Association)... Tel. 64251
Amman Municipal Library... Tel. 36111
University of Jordan Library... Tel. 65111
Cassid Museum... Tel. 36191
Folklore Museum... Tel. 36191

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)... Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue... Tel. 24391-4
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)... Tel. 36361-2
Municipal water service (emergency)... Tel. 37111-3
Police headquarters... Tel. 36141
Najdah towing patrol (towing police, English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency... Tel. 21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA)... Tel. 55205
Jordan Television... Tel. 73111
Radio, English Service... Tel. 74124
Fire department... Tel. 19
Fire headquarters... Tel. 22080

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al Hamra Theatre... Tel. 226-448
Al Sha'b Art Gallery... Tel. 228-577
American Centre... Tel. 332-362
Arab Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-727
Belgian Cultural Centre... Tel. 334-901
British Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-504
Deutsch Demokratische Republik Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-502
French Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-684
Kabkab Theatre... Tel. 332-016
National Museum... Tel. 114-854
Soviet Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-680
Spanish Cultural Centre... Tel. 334-003
Urns Art Gallery... Tel. 334-619
Zaharna Public Library... Tel. 111-318
West German Cultural Institute... Tel. 334-954

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

Ambulance (government)... Tel. 90
Chamber of Commerce... Tel. 118-339
Electric Power Co. (emergency)... Tel. 225-487
Fire headquarters... Tel. 91
Information... Tel. 9597
Municipal water service... Tel. 113-500
Time (in Arabic)... Tel. 99

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Zaqra Cinema Near Street Tel. 82011
Irbid Highway Street Tel. 24086
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Madaba King Abdullah Street Tel. 180
Mafraq Tel. 194
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Rhodesia reports bombing mission inside Angola

SALISBURY, Feb. 26 (R) — Rhodesian planes today bombed a big Rhodesian guerrilla training camp in Angola, military headquarters announced.

Informed sources said the camp was close to the eastern Angolan administrative town of Luso, about 300 kilometres from Angola's border with Zambia and 1,000 kilometres from the closest part of Rhodesia.

It was the furthest into black Africa that Rhodesia had carried its war against the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance.

It was also the first time the Rhodesians had announced an attack into any black state other than the country's immediate neighbours—Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana.

Military headquarters said in a terse communiqué only that the raid took place at 0610 GMT

today, that it was successful with all planes returning safely, and that it was against the Zimbabwe Peoples Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) of Patriotic Front joint leader Joshua Nkomo.

Informed Salisbury sources said the military had long known of a ZIPRA training camp at Luso, from information gleaned from captured guerrillas. Young Rhodesians would be taken there from Botswana for training before passing into Zambia and then on to Rhodesia, they said.

The military believed insurgents had received instruction from Cuban, East German and Soviet personnel in Angola, the sources said.

Luso lies on the trans-Africa Benguela Railway and was the site of several important clashes between rival nationalist movements in the Angolan civil war of 1975-76.

Over the past ten days Rhodesian planes have attacked alleged guerrilla bases in Zambia three times and in Mozambique once. Rhodesia has announced 18 major raids into neighbouring black African states in the past two-and-a-half years, claiming to have hit 50 guerrilla bases with at least 4,000 insurgents killed.

Rhodesian military supreme Lieutenant-General Peter Walls recently promised the Patriotic Front a "tragedy" if it tried to smash the one-man, one-vote elections in April. General Walls said his forces would operate outside the country as well as inside to guard the election.



Unique experiment links Egyptian mummies

LONDON—These male mummies, probably Ptolemaic from the time of Cleopatra in the first century BC, have been shown to be related as the result of a unique experiment between a British and West German museum. X-rays, which have been taken at a Liverpool hospital in northwest England, along with several other methods of dating, have shown the same congenital spine defects in one mummy from the Liverpool Museum (right) and in another from the Hildesheim, West Germany. It is the first time that two mummies from different parts of Egypt have been found to be

related. This joint experiment was arranged after Dr. Arne Eggebrecht, director of the Hildesheim Museum, learnt in a scientific journal of the existence of a mummy in the Liverpool Museum with a similar spine abnormality to one in his own museum. Professor Ronald Harrison, professor of Anatomy at Liverpool University said, "We are breaking new ground here. This is the first time that non-royal mummies have been subjected to tests of this sort and the first time Ptolemaic remains have been studied using these techniques." (COI photo)

Libya reportedly ups oil price with Venezuela soon to follow

BAHRAIN, Feb. 26 (R)—The Libyan Jamahiriya has increased the price of all its crude oil, irrespective of quality, by \$5.68 a barrel, the well-informed Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported today.

The oil industry journal also said Venezuela's fuel oil prices will rise by between \$2.10 and \$2.51 a barrel from March 1. MEES said the Libyan price increase of a little under five per cent was surprisingly modest in contrast to recent increases by Abu Dhabi and Qatar of between \$8.24 and \$10.2 a barrel.

The Libyan increases, which still kept prices far below open market levels, became effective from Feb. 21 until the end of the

first quarter of this year.

Oil prices have been moving forward since Iran, the world's largest exporter after Saudi Arabia, stopped exports last Dec. 26 because of the revolution which toppled the monarchy in the country.

Iranian exports averaged five million barrels a day, and the effects of this shortfall on the market and prices is to be discussed at a consultative conference of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) ministers in Geneva on March 26.

MEES said that traditionally, Venezuelan fuel oil prices have been set monthly for the whole of the month concerned. But this time it has been made clear that

prices may also be revised during March.

Venezuela's state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela, following in the footsteps of its Iraqi and Algerian counterparts, has called in customers for discussions on an increase in crude oil prices, MEES said.

These national companies have so far indicated that they plan to hold off crude price rises until the start of the second quarter. "But observers are wondering just how long these and other OPEC members will be able to withstand the growing momentum towards higher prices now," MEES said.

Chinese trade unions seek greater power

HONG KONG, Feb. 26 (R)—Chinese trade unions have called for increased powers including the right to strike to force improvements in working conditions, the New China News Agency reported today.

It quoted the All-China Federation of Trade Unions as saying in a recent circular that "trade unions should support workers who refuse to work when improvements which can be made are not made."

It said trade unions should also criticise management if it disregarded workers' safety and health and could demand its dismissal if improvements were not made.

The circular said trade unions should have the right to "refuse signing on workers and forbid the operation of any newly built or expanded factory and mining enterprise which does not have the necessary labour protection facilities."

World News Briefs

U.K. hopes to continue talks with China

PEKING, Feb. 26 (R)—Britain told China yesterday it still hoped negotiations to continue between Peking and the makers of the Harrier vertical-takeoff jet on the possible purchase of the jet. Informed British sources said British industry minister Eric Varley told Vice-Premier Wang Zhen this as he discussed a wide-ranging trade pact. The sources suggested that Varley made the comment, first given by Prime Minister Callaghan after the recent Guadeloupe summit, to indicate doubts that the Chinese might have about the future of the jet after Peking's military operation in Vietnam. It was the first formal approval given to China to continue the jet plane's maker, British Aerospace. The proposed sale, criticised by the Soviet Union, but the British sources said, was commented yesterday that China and Britain were "not" countries.

Carter decides on General Haig's successor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (R)—President Carter has appointed Army Chief of Staff General Bernard Rogers as his successor in Europe, government officials said today. General Rogers will replace General Alexander Haig, present commander, who will retire on June 1, the sources said. Government sources said President Carter is expected to name General Rogers next week, and NATO's Defense Planning Committee is expected to act on the nomination of the same man. NATO commander, General Rogers will head 4.1 million

Newest Soviet carrier leaves Black Sea

ISTANBUL, Feb. 26 (R)—The Soviet Union's newest carrier, the 45,000-ton Minsk, passed through the Bosporus and the Dardanelles straits yesterday on its way to the Mediterranean, the Port Authority announced. The Authority said it was the first time the Minsk had left the Black Sea, where it is based. The Soviet Union has two other carriers, the Moskva and the Kiev. Eyewitnesses said the six helicopters visible on board as it passed Istanbul were the first since the Port Authority said Turkey accepted the Minsk as a "helicopter-carrying cruiser" to avoid possible difficulties of interpretation of the 1936 Montreux Convention governing the passage of warships through the straits. Turkey is a member of NATO.

Khmer Rouge Radio reports more clashes

BANGKOK, Feb. 26 (R)—Khmer Rouge forces loyal to the Pol Pot regime launched attacks against Vietnamese troops in separate areas of Kampuchea (Cambodia) last week. Killing them, the Khmer Rouge Radio reported today. The attacks were three clashes around the capital Phnom Penh on Wednesday. Vietnamese were killed, it said. The radio, believed to be from southern China, backs Pol Pot, overthrown by a Vietnamese offensive last month. His troops have been fighting a guerrilla war since. Vietnam does not admit it has any troops in Cambodia.

Carter admits dangers in curbing inflation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (R)—President Carter acknowledged his administration's failure to curb inflation could make him term president, according to an interview published today. He said that inflation was America's major problem. Mr. Carter, the Washington Post's Parade magazine he could already be political factions by his efforts to control the problem. He said failure to solve inflation could cost him the presidency in the election, much as the late President Lyndon Johnson's career was ended by his inability to end the Vietnam war. "I always think possibility," Mr. Carter was quoted as saying, "is easy thing to do because we do disappoint many powerful constituencies." He reiterated his call for cooperation from voters in the administration's fight against inflation, saying, "I believe it is the best approach to inflation and to the general health of the economy is to form a partnership and a mutual community."

Salesgirl rewards Papal blessing with kiss

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 26 (R)—Vittoria Ianni was married Pope yesterday—and she thanked him with a kiss. Pope John Paul II married the 22-year-old roadswoman's daughter and son-in-law, Mario Maltese, 24, in a fairy tale ceremony in the Vatican's Chapel. Then the bride turned to the Pope and asked, "Did you?" "And why not?" replied a smiling Pope John Paul II. A salesgirl in a Rome souvenir shop, asked the Pope to kiss her when he visited a nativity pageant before Christmas. To her he said yes. Yesterday, under the splendour of Michelangelo's coes, the Sistine Choir sang and the Pope wished the couple blessing of many children. The Pope also gave them a gold leather-bound bible engraved in gold letters and an envelope undisclosed sum of money. Only nobility and relatives of the normally rank a Papal blessing at their weddings.

Campaigning intensifies as Spain's elections draw near

MADRID, Feb. 26 (R)—In its centenary year, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) is pushing hard to get a 36-year-old lawyer elected prime minister on Thursday and return the party to government for the first time in 40 years.

"One-hundred years of firmness and honesty," declare the PSOE election posters beside photographs of Pablo Iglesias who founded the party in 1879 and of the present youthful leader Felipe Gonzalez.

The latest opinion poll to be published put the socialists just ahead of the ruling Democratic Centre Union (UCD) in the race for Thursday's poll—the first elections since Spain's new democratic constitution was adopted last December.

"On March 1 there will be a change of historical proportions," Mr. Gonzalez told more than 15,000 supporters at a Madrid halling. "The right will be defeated by the force of reason, not by the reason of force."

Mr. Gonzalez reached Madrid last night after a typical day in the whirlwind campaign which has earned him the nickname "Hurricane Felipe."

Throughout the day, Mr. Gonzalez repeated the attacks on Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez's UCD Party which have become the cornerstone of the socialist

campaign. "Unemployment has risen, new homes are missing, school places are missing, hospitals are missing—and the UCD says it has fulfilled its promises," he said. He added: "There are good conservatives and had conservatives. We've been landed with the worst of all because they have conserved Spain as the most unjust country in Europe."

As Mr. Gonzalez criss-crossed the country, his chief opponent, Prime Minister Suarez, prepared a televised speech to close his campaign tomorrow night.

In weekend visits to Barcelona, Valencia and the Mediterranean island of Majorca, Mr. Suarez repeated that the UCD aimed to govern alone for four more years. To do so, Mr. Suarez needs 11 more seats for an absolute majority of 176 in the Congress (lower house of parliament).

The thrust of Mr. Suarez's campaign has been directed through television, radio and the national press—under the slogans "Said and done. The UCD fulfils its promises."

The appearance on television of government ministers, who are all UCD candidates, has drawn angry protests from the left. "The UCD is using the television screen as if it was a private hunting ground belonging to one of its rural 'caciques' (squires)," Mr. Gonzalez

said last night.

The government has also come under fire for deferring municipal elections which have not been held since the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975. The municipal polls, which the left is expected to win, have been called for next April 3.

"The UCD has failed to bring democracy into people's homes because the town halls of Spain remain in the hands of men appointed in Madrid," Mr. Gonzalez said.

But the socialist leader's sharpest irony was reserved for Mr. Suarez himself. Mr. Gonzalez recalled that three years ago he was elected secretary-general of a Socialist Party which was clandestine and persecuted.

Three years ago Mr. Suarez was also secretary-general of a party, he said. It was General Franco's state party, the National Movement. "And now they (the UCD) try to teach us lessons in democracy," he said.

N. America to see eclipse of sun

TORONTO, Feb. 26 (R)—Clouds today threatened to blot out the last total eclipse of the sun to be seen in North America this century.

Tens of thousands of amateur and professional enthusiasts have

flocked into the crescent-shaped band across the northwestern United States and central Canada where a total eclipse was expected to be visible from about mid-morning.

But varying amounts of cloud were forecast for much of the observation area, stretching from Oregon and Washington states to the Canadian Arctic. It could wipe out the spectacular effect of the moon moving across the sun. Elsewhere in the continent partial eclipses will be visible, weather permitting.

Clouds will not completely wreck a major research project mounted by U.S. Canadian and Swiss scientists at the small community of Red Lake, in western Ontario province.

They are using rockets to conduct a series of tests, mainly to measure what happens to the complicated structure of the earth's upper atmosphere when

the sun's massive radiation is suddenly switched off and then on again during the eclipse. Only gales or a major equipment failure can disrupt that programme.

Some astronomers, plus a Japanese television crew, have rented aircraft to take them above the clouds and give them a clear view, particularly of the sun's fiery outer gases, or corona, that can be seen during a total eclipse.

For those on the ground, unable to chase the eclipse by air, the eerie effect the sun being extinguished will last less than three minutes. Hotel accommodation in and near the 320-kilometre wide eclipse zone is fully booked.

In the United States, parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota lie in the path of the eclipse, which will then pass through Canada's Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec provinces before heading through Greenland.

Mrs. Gandhi's son convicted of offences during emergency rule

NEW DELHI, Feb. 26 (R)—Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, controversial son of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, was convicted by a Delhi court today of five charges, including criminal conspiracy.

District Judge O.N. Mehra will pass sentence tomorrow and Mr. Sanjay could receive a seven-year jail sentence. But lawyers involved in the case said they expected Mrs. Gandhi's son to draw a sentence of about three years.

Convicted with Mr. Sanjay was former information minister Vidya Charan Shukla. Apart from the criminal conspiracy charge, the two were found guilty of breach of trust, mischief by fire, retaining stolen property and destroying evidence during the 1975 emergency rule of Mrs. Gandhi.

The case had dragged on for 11 months.

Hundreds of riot police stood guard outside the court as supporters of Mr. Sanjay struggled to get into the building shouting "Remove the false charges."

The bespectacled Mr. Sanjay folded his arms and smiled when the judge told him he had been found guilty.

The conviction is the first in at least 20 cases which have been brought against Mr. Sanjay for his alleged illegal activities during the emergency.

Mr. Sanjay, 32, one of the most powerful political figures in India during his mother's last two years as prime minister, spent a month in jail last June for trying to influence prosecution witnesses in the case.

The case was dubbed "Kissa Kursi Ka" (the story of the chair) after a film which satirised the political career of Mrs. Gandhi and exposed corrupt politicians during her emergency rule. Messrs. Sanjay and Shukla were accused of conspiring in the destruction of the film.

The prosecution alleged that burned film canisters were found at Mr. Sanjay's Maruti car factory on the outskirts of Delhi.

By Norris Willatt

LUGANO — At a time when several other countries are resorting to measures to control wages and prices — so-called incomes policies — Switzerland is abandoning them. The Swiss Office for the Control of Prices, Wages and Profits was officially abolished on Dec. 31, 1978.

The official explanation was that it no longer had anything to do. Some Swiss contest that conclusion but the statistics, at any rate, seem to confirm the government's reasoning. At the present time, both wages and prices are more or less stable.

Profits, however, are on the decline both because of recession at home and the loss of foreign sales due to the high value of the Swiss franc in relation to the currencies of Switzerland's chief trading partners, such as West Germany, the United States, Britain and France.

On the prices front, the Swiss are in comparatively comfortable situation of knowing that most prices have levelled off in recent months, while some have actually fallen. Thus, at the end of 1978, the index of wholesale prices, at 142.1, was actually a few points down from the figure of a year earlier, 145.5. In November the consumer price index was only 0.8 of a point up from a base of September, 1977.

The consensus is that prices will

rise only modestly again during 1979, so that the inflation rate will not exceed the one to two per cent a year which has characterised the past few years (compared with rates of close to ten per cent for the United Kingdom and the United States).

In fact, this achievement of holding down the cost of living owes comparatively little to the now defunct Office of Price Control. This did exert some influence, but mainly from a psychological viewpoint. Its very existence may have induced some businessmen to exercise price restraint.

This is the approach favoured in Switzerland, which relies heavily on persuasion to get results. In any case, the control office's powers were restricted by its resources. It was virtually a one man bureau, manned in turn by two men, Mr. Leo Schürmann and Mr. Leon Schlumpf. They were assisted by a "consultative commission" of 15, made up of representatives of employers, the trade unions and consumer organisations.

Their main function was to invite complaints from the public of alleged excessive prices or price increases. During the six years that they did this they received a total of 35,000 complaints, all of which were investigated. But the investigation was followed by intervention in only a few cases.

Thus, the price controller at different times rescinded price

The Swiss have recently dismantled their office for controlling prices and wages. They don't need it because when they saw their inflation figure reach 12 per cent the Swiss decided for themselves to hold back their wage demands, and their pay increases will average about two percent this year.

increases on milk, bread and flour, certain pharmaceuticals; restricted proposed increases for the supply of electricity, the overhaul and maintenance of central heating oil tanks, and on motor tyres; rolled back an increase in the price of petrol. Landlords were instructed to reduce rents when a fall in interest rates made mortgages cheaper.

But it was all along a David and Goliath battle. The Price Control Office—its intervention in the fields of wages and profits was nominal—would hardly have kept prices so tightly under control without the help of other, more powerful forces in the Swiss economy. Most compelling of these was the decision of the people as a whole to moderate their demands for higher wages and salaries.

At the time, at the start of 1973, when the government created the office of "Mr. Price", as Messrs. Schürmann and Schlumpf were known in turn, inflation in Switzerland had peaked out at around 12 per cent. This figure shocked a prudent and thrifty population, which closed ranks to remedy it. The outcome was that the average rate of pay increase, which was 12.2 per cent in 1974, has been moderated to around two per cent a year for the past few years.

The forecast for 1979 is for more of the same, with estimates for pay increases during the year ranging from 0.5 per cent (Swiss Employers' Association) to close to three per cent (Swiss Economic Research Institute). In any case, there is no danger of an explosion on the wages front in Switzerland.

Nor does it seem likely that prices will take off with the ending of controls. Several organisations representing the interests of consumers have announced that they intend to take over from officialdom: The Romande (French Swiss) Federation of Consumers; the Popular Movement of Families; the Swiss Trade Union Federation.

The Romande Federation of Consumers is even now collecting signatures for a popular initiative to "prevent abuses in setting prices." It has already obtained 90,000; enough to ensure that the proposal will go to a popular referendum which seems likely to approve it.

In any event, circumstances may help to keep prices down. While some domestic prices are still rising slightly, the prices of some Swiss imports are even falling because of the revaluation of the Swiss franc. Switzerland imports much of its food, and most of its raw materials and semi-finished products for industry. The level of the import price index therefore has a considerable impact on the consumer price index.

According to the Swiss Credit Bank, during the first 11 months of 1978 the index of imported goods showed a decline of more than ten per cent compared with the same period a year earlier.

This meant that Swiss housewives were able to buy a number

of food products, from cocoa to oranges and so less. Swiss industrialists, less for a range of materials, certain kinds of lumber, to semi-finished iron and tin products.

It is true that the revaluation of the Swiss franc was at time having certain consequences, making more expensive, resulting in a slowing of output, and considerable time working. Some work even being laid off.

At the end of 1978, 12,000 Swiss were entirely without work. This suggested that the rise to 20,000 by the end of 1979. Again, people in Switzerland are not too optimistic about the jobless rate of 20,000 equal to only 0.5 per cent of the entire Swiss population of 6.3 million.

No other industrial country has achieved such a low unemployment level. Countries, such as France, with a high inflation rate of one to two per cent, like an economic miracle. The Swiss have achieved it by their own Official action through the Price Control Office, which has been a fringe benefit.

FINANCIAL TIMES

150